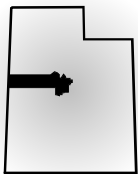


# County Trends



## Juab

March 2003

### A Local Economic Perspective

#### No Clear Signal

Juab County's labor market endured significant losses during mid-2002. Now the county's employment base appears to be expanding. But, is this the good news it seems to be?

#### ***Employment is up, but. . .***

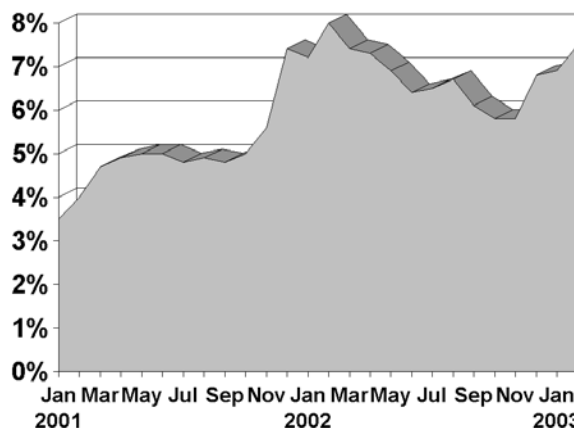
In 2001, Juab County was generating robust employment gains while the nation and state just kept on losing employment. However, by mid-2002, Juab County was also mired in job losses. On the other hand, the most current data available show September 2002 with a 5-percent, 130-job year-to-year gain. Has Juab County's labor market recovered?

Unfortunately, there's more to this economic story than meets the eye. Almost all the September job increase occurred in heavy construction. While, of course, the county is happy to benefit from these jobs, they will most likely disappear when their projects conclude.

In fact, most industries were shedding jobs during September 2002. Retail trade and private health care/social services were among the few industries joining construction in the job-gaining category.

Losses proved particularly heavy in professional/business services and food services. In addition, government (federal and local) lost a noticeable

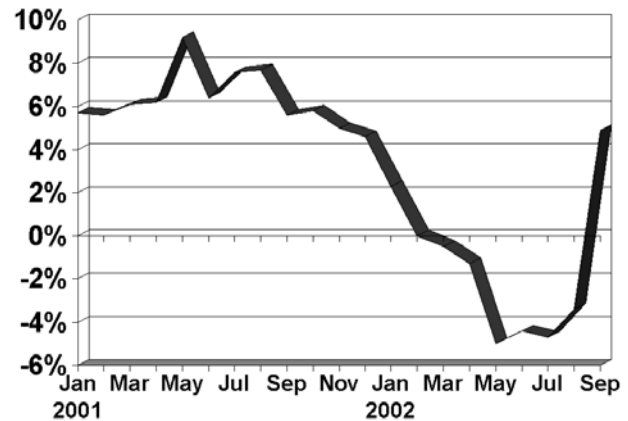
***Seasonally Adjusted Juab County Unemployment Rates***



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.



## Year-Over Change in Juab County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# To the Point

**While Juab's employment base started adding jobs recently, many of the new positions are in heavy construction—jobs likely to disappear upon completion of the project. Unemployment has ticked up in recent months and construction permitting has produced a less than stellar performance. Only sales provided a noticeable bright spot.**

number of jobs. Interestingly, the recession-sensitive manufacturing industry remained relatively unscathed. It did drop positions, but only a few.

(If you still aren't familiar with these new "NAICS" industry groupings, you aren't alone! Check out this website: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Naics/dwsdefault.asp>)

On the other side of the employment coin, joblessness trended upward in the first few months of 2003. During the latter half of 2002, rates had started to slip. But, by February 2003, Juab County's unemployment rate registered 7.5 percent—substantially above both the state and national averages.

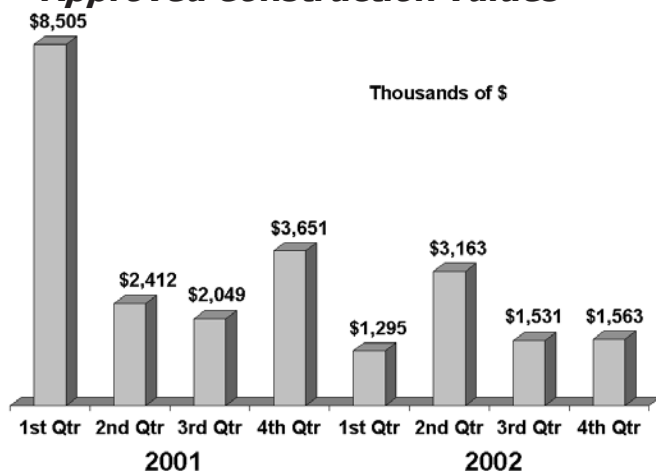
Juab County's unemployment woes are related not only to job volatility in 2002, but to layoffs in other counties as well. While employment is measured by place of work, unemployment is measured by place of residence. With Juab County's high commuter workforce, employment declines in other counties have shoved up the jobless rate.

### ***Construction Permitting Drops***

Construction provided soft spot for Juab County's economy. Not only were fourth quarter permitting values down 60 percent from the previous year, but annual 2002 figures showed a 55-percent decline. Of course, 2002 suffers in comparison to an unusual spate of fast and furious permitting during the first quarter of 2001.

All categories of construction authorization dropped

## Total Juab County Approved Construction Values



Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.

substantially in 2002. The number of home permits approved slipped by 31 percent. With three-fourths of new home permits, Nephi continues to be the place of choice for home-building in Juab County.

Nonresidential authorized building values dropped by 30 percent. In addition, additions/alterations/repairs values declined by more than 80 percent.

### ***Sales bounce back***

Growth in gross taxable sales seems unable to settle on any kind of a trend. One quarter sales are up. The next quarter they're down. The most recent data available (third quarter 2002) place sales on the upswing. In comparison to the previous year, third quarter sales rose by a robust 9 percent. Both retail trade sales and service industry sales spurred the current strong performance.

### ***The Road Ahead***

War fears have seemed to derail a barely recovering national economy in recent months. A quick end to the war with Iraq would do much to prop-up consumer confidence and improve the national, state, and local economies.

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## Quick Facts

### February 2003

#### **Unemployment Rate**

Juab County	7.5%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	5.8%

### June 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### **Job Growth**

Juab County	4.9%
Utah	-0.9%
U.S.	-0.7%

### 4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### **Construction Values**

Juab County	-57.2%
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### 3rd Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

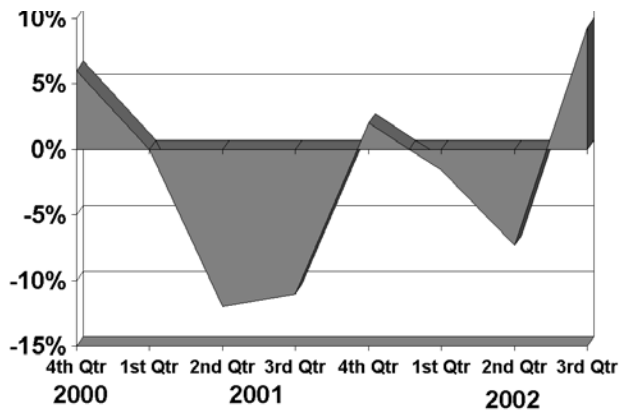
#### **Sales**

Juab County	9.3%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
 Utah Tax Commission,  
 Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Juab County see:**  
**<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/regions/county.asp>**

## Year-Over Change in Juab County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*

# What's Up? <sup>4</sup>

- Kuhni Sons, Inc., has already begun site construction in Juab County and plans to move to its new facility within the next 18 months. The plant will be built approximately 19 miles south west of Nephi at Mills. The relocation will cost around \$6 million.
- Mountain High Federal Credit Union intends to open a Eureka branch in January. The community has been without a bank since Wells Fargo closed its branch five months ago.

**For more economic events, see:**

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/juab/juabee.pdf>



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### **Equal Opportunity Employment Program**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



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